

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 23, and 26-55 without prejudice, and amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) Apparatus for applying torque to a first tubular relative to a second tubular, the apparatus comprising a first tong for gripping the first tubular and a second tong for gripping the second tubular,
wherein the first tong is provided with teeth around a peripheral surface thereof, the second tong is provided with at least one pinion, and the at least one pinion meshes with the teeth in such a way that the first tong and the second tong can be rotated relative to one another when the pinion is rotated.

2. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first tong is a back-up tong and the second tong is a wrenching tong.

3. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one pinion is located at or near the periphery of the second tong.

4. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first tong is substantially cylindrical.

5. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second tong is substantially cylindrical.

6. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of the first and second tongs have an axial passage extending therethrough for receiving a tubular.

7. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein a passage is provided from the edge to the axial passage of each of the first and second tongs to allow the introduction of a tubular into the axial passage of each of the first and second tongs.

8. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein a motor is provided on the second tong and coupled to the at least one pinion.

9. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second tong is provided with two pinions.

10. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the pinions are located at or near the periphery of the second tong spaced by substantially 180° about the longitudinal axis of the tong.

11. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the pinions are located at or near the periphery of the second tong spaced by substantially 120° about the longitudinal axis of the tong.

12. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second tong is provided with one pinion.

13. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first tong comprises a plurality of hydraulically driven clamping jaws for gripping the first tubular.

14. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second tong comprises a plurality of hydraulically driven clamping jaws for gripping the second tubular.

15. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein each jaw is equipped with two or more dies.

16. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein each jaw is attached to hydraulic driving ^{means} member via a spherical bearing.

17. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the first tong and second tong each comprise a plurality of hydraulic driving means members, each hydraulic driving means member comprising a piston rod and a piston chamber, and the jaw is an integral part of the hydraulic driving means members, the dies being placed in pockets in the piston chamber.

18. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein bearings supported on resilient means members are provided between the first tong and the second tong to support the first tong on top of the second tong.

19. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for applying torque to a first tubular relative to a second tubular, the apparatus comprising a gear and at least one pinion, and a first clamping means member for clamping the first tubular within the gear, the at least one pinion being attached to a second clamping means member for clamping the second tubular, and the at least one pinion meshing with the gear in such a way that the first clamping means member and the second clamping means member can be rotated relative to one another by rotating the at least one pinion.

20. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein the first clamping means member comprises jaws mounted within the gear about an axial passage extending through the gear.

21. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein the second clamping means member comprises jaws mounted within a clamping housing about an axial passage extending therethrough.

22. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 21, further comprising a motor fixed to the clamping housing and coupled to the or each pinion.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) A method of applying torque to a first tubular relative to a second tubular, the method comprising:

clamping the first tubular in a first tong;

clamping the second tubular in a second tong; and

rotating a pinion connected to the second tong, ~~and which~~ wherein the pinion meshes with teeth provided around a peripheral surface of the first tong so as to rotate the first tong relative to the second tong.

25. (Currently Amended) A method of applying torque to a first tubular relative to a second tubular, the method comprising:

clamping the first tubular in a first ~~tong~~ clamping member within a gear;

clamping the second tubular in a second ~~tong~~ clamping member; and

rotating a pinion connected to the second tong, ~~and which~~ wherein the pinion meshes with ~~teeth provided around a peripheral surface of the first tong~~ the gear so as to rotate the first tong relative to the second tong.

26. – 55. (Cancelled)